

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6779
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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EAID, EFIN, FR, CG, BE
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER
MEETS WITH MOBUTU

REF: A) BRUSSELS 9852 (NOTAL), B) STATE 130717 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY - BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S MAY 24 MEETING
AND LUNCH IN PARIS WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU CLEARS UP
BELGO-ZAIRE "MISUNDERSTANDING" AND FULLY "NORMALIZES"
RELATIONS, INCLUDING QUESTION OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC
RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS EX-COLONY. MOBUTU REPORTS ON
EFFORTS TO CREATE AN INTERAFRICAN FORCE TO ASSURE
SECURITY OF SHABA. MOBUTU PLEASED WITH BELGIAN
PLANS TO PROCEED WITH MOBUTU PLAN SCENARIO AND HOLD
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JUNE 13-14 BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL WORKING-LEVEL
MEETING AS SCHEDULED. END SUMMARY.

2. WE MET MORNING MAY 25 WITH BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S
CHEF DE CABINET, ALFRED CAHEN, AND HIS DEPUTY, ANDRE
ONKELINX, AND RECEIVED DETAILED READ-OUT ON MAY 24
PARIS MEETING AND LUNCH BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS

AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU, WHICH CAHEN HAD ENGINEERED AND ATTENDED. CAHEN TOLD US THAT ALL "MISUNDERSTANDINGS" BETWEEN MOBUTU, WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS A DIFFICULT MAN TO GET ALONG WITH IN THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE BELGIANS HAD BEEN CLEARED UP AND THAT RELATIONS WERE NOW "NORMALIZED" AND COULD BE DESCRIBED AS "EXCELLENT". (TO EMPHASIZE THIS POINT CAHEN REMARKED THAT THE ONLY LESS-THAN-PERFECT ASPECT OF THE WHOLE PARIS MEETING WAS THAT MOBUTU ORDERED BEEF IN A THREE-STAR FISH RESTAURANT).

3. CAHEN SAID THAT MOBUTU AND TINDEMANS BEGAN BY DISCUSSING QUESTION OF FOREIGN POPULATION IN SHABA AND SAID THAT MOBUTU NOW FULLY REALIZES THAT THE SECURITY OF FOREIGN TECHNICIANS IS THE "KEY" TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF SHABA AND ZAIRE. CAHEN SAID TINDEMANS TOLD MOBUTU THAT BELGIANS IN LIKASI FEEL THREATENED AND ARE PUTTING ON PRESSURE FOR EVACUATION. MOBUTU ASKED TINDEMANS TO TELL THEM TO STAY PUT SINCE FRENCH TROOPS ARE ON THE WAY TO LIKASI, AND TINDEMANS AGREED THAT BELGIANS SHOULD STAY AT LEAST FOR PRESENT. MOBUTU TOLD TINDEMANS THAT THE FRENCH HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR THREE FAZ BATTALLIONS TO BE USED IN ASSURING SECURITY OF SHABA.

4. CAHEN SAID THAT MOBUTU TOLD TINDEMANS THAT HE HAD
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RECEIVED "POSITIVE REACTIONS" FROM HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES AT THE PARIS AF SUMMIT TO THE IDEA OF AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE FOR SHABA. MOBUTU TOLD TINDEMANS THAT THE MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM THAT NINE AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD "AGREED IN PRINCIPLE" TO PROVIDE TROOPS OR EQUIPMENT FOR SUCH AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE. CAHEN SAID COUNTRIES MENTIONED BY MOBUTU WERE NIGERIA, SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, TOGO, GABON, MAURITANIA, EGYPT (SYMBOLIC ONLY) AND SUDAN. TINDEMANS TOLD MOBUTU THAT BELGIUM WOULD SEEK TO MARSHAL WESTERN LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION FOR SUCH AN AFRICAN FORCE. ONKELINX SAID THAT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO UN, ERNEMANN, HAD REPORTED AFTER HIS SOUNDINGS IN NEW YORK WITH SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AN OAU DECISION IN PRINCIPLE FAVORING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN FORCE FOR SHABA UNDER OAU AUSPICES. ERNEMANN THOUGHT THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD GET THE REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IF THERE ARE ENOUGH ABSTENTIONS. ERNEMANN VIEWED NIGERIA AS THE IDEAL AFRICAN NATION TO BE OUT IN FRONT ON THIS ISSUE.

5. ONKELINX COMMENTED THAT BELGIAN-FRENCH ACTION IN SHABA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY WELL RECEIVED IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC FORA, AS COMPARED TO THEBROUHAHA THAT OCCURRED IN THE SECRET

UN FOLLOWING THE 1964 BELGIAN ACTION IN STANLEYVILLE. HE SAID THAT SIMONET WOULD BE CONSULTING AT THE UN

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NEXT WEEK ON THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE CONCEPT WHEN HE IS IN NEW YORK TO ADDRESS THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT JUNE 2.

6. ONKELINX SAID THAT THEY HAD AS YET NO REPLY FROM THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SIMONET'S REQUEST FOR FRENCH VIEWS ON THE FORMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE FOR SHABA. HE SAID THEY WERE INSTRUCTING BELGIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS TO PRESS FOR A PROMPT REPLY.

7. CAHEN SAID THAT MOBUTU TOLD TINDEMANS THAT ZAIRE
COUNTED ON THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
BELGIUM AND ZAIRE AND WANTED THAT RELATIONSHIP, AS WELL
AS THE PRESENCE OF EXTENSIVE BELGIAN INTERESTS AND
PERSONNEL, TO REMAIN. TINDEMANS TOLD MOBUTU THAT
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BELGIUM INTENDED TO PROCEED AS PLANNED WITH THE
MOBUTU PLAN SCENARIO AND PROPOSED TO CONVENE AS
SCHEDULED THE JUNE 13-14 BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL
WORKING-LEVEL MEETING ON THE PLAN. CAHEN SAID THAT
MOBUTU WAS PLEASED WITH THIS NEWS AND PROMISED TO
SEND ZAIRIAN EXPERTS TO BRUSSELS JUNE 4 TO WORK ON A
FINAL DRAFT OF THE PLAN WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE
BRUSSELS MEETING. WE ARE REPORTING SEPTTEL IN MORE
DETAIL ON MOBUTU PLAN DEVELOPMENTS. CHAMBERS

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